



Colonel Bill Gardiner
Director

Idaho State Police

Service Since 1939



Brad Little
Governor

To: Idaho Coroners

From: Matthew Gamette, ISP Forensic Services Laboratory System Director

Subject: ISPFS Suspected Overdose Death Rapid Toxicology Program Changes

Date: May 27, 2025

We are now offering our rapid screening toxicology on suspected overdose deaths to any coroner's office in Idaho **without an MOU**. We continue to offer this at no cost to you and at no cost for any of the collection supplies. We will perform the confirmatory toxicology at ISPFS for you at no cost or compare our results to your NMS results if you send the sample off for analysis. The sample does need to have confirmatory toxicology after screening analysis, but we would be happy to provide that for you at no cost in our normal turnaround times. We also have an agreement with NMS to evaluate data from samples you send to them. Please reach out to ISPFS today forensic.services@isp.idaho.gov if you are interested in getting the blood tubes and other supplies to get started.

We are also continuing to offer free training to Coroner offices regarding investigation of suspected overdose deaths, use of ODMAP, and the use of MDILog.

This program has a proven successful track record. As you know, ISPFS has been performing rapid toxicology screening using the Randox MultiSTAT instrument for about the last two years. We recently made an international scientific presentation about the project and the success of what we are doing. The validation of this instrument was awarded national validation of the year by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors. In addition to sending you a copy of the screening results within 48 hours of it arriving at the lab, we are also loading the results into the state overdose tracking system ODMAP. As this is a screening instrument, we have seen false positive and negative results. However, this instrument has proven to be very robust when the screening results have been compared to the confirmatory results, especially as it relates to fentanyl.

Of the 180 Idaho coroner cases screened with the Randox instrument as of today:

- 48% of cases were positive for Fentanyl
- 40% of cases were positive for Methamphetamine
- 32% of cases were positive for Amphetamine
- 28% of cases were positive for Cannabinoids
- 22% of cases were positive for BZE/Cocaine*
- Only 5.8% of cases had no drugs detected in the screen

Please let me know if you want information about participating in this program. We are hoping to onboard every coroner's office in Idaho so that you can benefit from this program. More information is available from our initial [news release](#) about this program.

All evidence must be prelogged in the ISPFS Prelog System. Cases will all be reported out through the same system (ISPFS reports all cases through the ISPFS Prelog System).

Any questions or concerns about the ISPFS Laboratory System should be addressed to me at matthew.gamette@isp.idaho.gov or 208-884-7217

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